

**REMARKS****I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 7-9, 12, and 13 are currently pending in this application. Claims 7-9 were amended, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order to expedite the prosecution of this application. No new matter has been introduced into the application as a result of the present amendment.

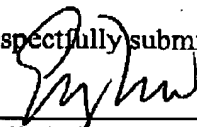
**II. Conclusion**

In view of the present amendment, the Applicants believe that the application is ready for allowance. The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for his continuous efforts in expediting the prosecution of this application.

Reconsideration of this application is requested and a favorable decision is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any question, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at 312-913-2126.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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